

Ministry to process 7,000 housing services to citizens

● In line with royal directives

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Housing and Urban Planning Minister, Her Excellency Amna bint Ahmed Al Rumaihi, has announced the start of implementation procedures to deliver housing services to citizens.

The planned services include allocating housing finance and handing over a number of ownership-service projects in hous-

ing cities.

This is in line with the directives of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to accelerate the delivery of 50,000 new housing units, and in accordance with the instructions of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to begin providing 7,000 housing services,

The announcement coincided with the Kingdom of Bahrain's National Days, the 26th anniversary of His Majesty the King's accession to the throne, and the accompanying national events.



H.E. Al Rumaihi expressed gratitude to HM the King and to HRH Prince Salman for the leadership's continued support



“Bahrain is committed to providing social housing services in line with the housing targets set out in the Government Plan 2023-2026.”

– H.E. AMNA BINT AHMED AL RUMAIHI

for the social housing sector.

She said Bahrain is committed to providing social housing services in line with the housing

targets set out in the Government Plan 2023-2026.

On implementation, she said the ministry has begun coordinating with financing bodies and participating banks to disburse funding to beneficiaries.

The Minister highlighted that technical and engineering teams have also started identifying completed projects and those at advanced stages, in preparation for handover under ownership services.

She noted that lists of beneficiaries are being finalised and will be contacted in phases to complete procedures under ap-

proved mechanisms.

H.E. Al Rumaihi added that the plan to provide 7,000 housing services includes a comprehensive package of financing and housing options, offering citizens greater choice and flexibility to meet their needs.

She emphasised that the ministry is working to ensure faster delivery of suitable housing through prompt services tailored to Bahraini families, and will continue to mobilise all efforts in the coming phase to accelerate delivery and achieve the set goals.

Eight illegal workers detained and 87 deported

● LMRA conducts 255 inspection campaigns, visits

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Eight violating and irregular workers were detained and 87 others deported following 255 inspection campaigns and visits carried out between December 14 and 20, the Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) announced.

The inspection campaigns and visits also resulted in monitoring several violations related to the provisions of a number of regulating laws, especially the LMRA and the Residency Laws in the Kingdom of Bahrain, noting that legal measures were taken regarding the observed violations.

The Authority pointed out that 242 inspection visits were carried out on various shops in all governorates, in addition to 13 joint inspection campaigns, 8 campaigns in the Capital Governorate, 2 campaigns in the Northern Governorate and 3 campaigns in the Southern Governorate.

The government entities that participated in the campaign are the Ministry of Interior, represented by the Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs (NPRA), the Governorate's respective Police Directorate, and the General Directorate of Crime Detection and Forensic Science.

The Authority affirmed the continuation of joint coordination with government agencies to intensify inspection campaigns in all governorates of the Kingdom, and to address any violations or practices that negatively affect the stability and competitiveness of the labour market or harm economic and social security of the Kingdom.

The LMRA renewed its call on all members of society to support the efforts of government agencies in addressing illegal labour practices, by reporting violations via the electronic form on the authority's website www.lmra.gov.bh

Job scam alert

Pakistani loses PKR 400,000 over fake Bahrain employment promise

● Concern grows, warning out over unlicensed online recruitment agencies

● Authorities urge caution when applying for overseas work

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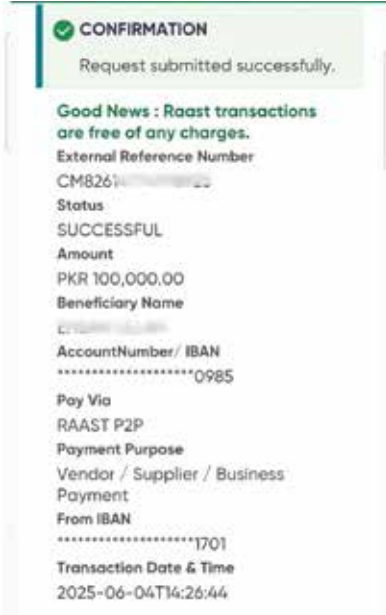
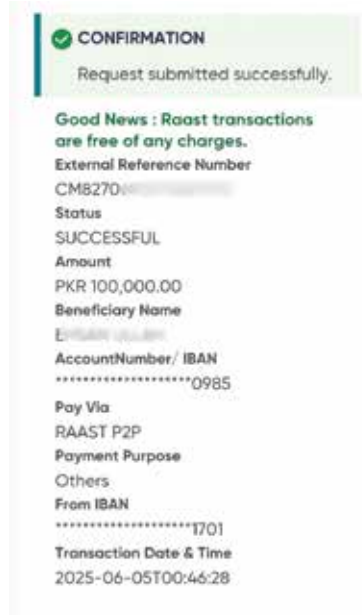
A Pakistani national, who was previously a resident of Bahrain and is now in Pakistan, has reportedly lost around PKR 400,000 (approximately BD538) after falling victim to a job placement scam that promised employment opportunities in the Kingdom.

The victim explained that the ordeal began six to seven months ago when he was approached by a man on social media claiming to assist with overseas job placements in the food packing industry in Bahrain.

Initially, the man offered to cover expenses such as ticketing after the victim's medical examination for employment was rejected.

“He assured me that there would be no advance payments, and that fees would only be requested once the visa process was approved,” the victim said.

Trusting him, the victim also facilitated documents for a friend's brother who was interested in a similar job oppor-



Victim's payment transactions with the scammer



The General Directorate of Anti-Corruption & Economic & Electronic Security highlights that scammers rarely ask for money upfront; instead, they first seek to gain your trust.

troduced friends to the scheme. Authorities note that

cross-border scams like these are challenging to investigate but emphasize the importance of reporting suspicious activity immediately.

The victim has shared all communication records with a local media outlet to raise awareness and prevent similar incidents from affecting others.

“This experience has been humiliating and financially damaging,” the victim said. “I hope my story serves as a warning to others seeking job opportunities abroad, to thoroughly verify agencies and contacts before making any payments.”

The case underscores the importance of using verified, registered agencies when seeking employment overseas.

Woman lured to Bahrain, forced into prostitution

● Court ruling is set for February

Mohammed Darwish
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The High Criminal Court has set 10 February to rule in the case of two defendants accused of conning a 25-year-old Asian woman into coming to Bahrain on the promise of work at a women's salon, then forcing her into prostitution.

Prosecutors allege the pair brought the woman from her home country, housed her, and moved her between several flats and nightclubs, using threats, force and trickery to exploit her for profit.

They are also accused of unlawfully depriving her of her liberty, taking a share of what she earned through prostitution, and withholding her passport after it was handed to them for safekeeping, harming the rightful owner.

The charge sheet says the woman was pressured to repay an alleged debt in return for her freedom, and was made to engage in prostitution through intimidation and deceit.

Prosecutors also allege the defendants relied, in part, on the money she made from prostitution.

In court, defence lawyer Mohammed Al Marzooq asked for his client to be acquitted, arguing the account was not plausible, that the complainant's statements did not match, and that the enquiries were not sound.

He asked the court to order the retrieval of CCTV footage tracking the woman's movements in the five days before she filed her complaint, and sought to question the investigations officer.

Al Marzooq told the court the case file contained no confession by either defendant.

The complainant said she agreed to travel after being told she would work in a women's salon, as she did in her home country, and that she would earn good money.

She said that once she arrived with the defendants, she was held in a hotel.

Reaffirming housing as ‘national priority’

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MP Ahmed Al-Salloum commended the directive of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to provide 7,000 new housing services.

Chairman of the Financial and Economic Affairs Committee of the Council of Representatives, MP Al-Salloum emphasised that the order reflects a proactive governmental approach focused on addressing citizens' needs and accelerating the implemen-

tation of housing programs.

He noted that this initiative aligns with the visionary leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, which has made housing a national priority as a key pillar of social stability and improved quality of life for citizens.

MP Al-Salloum highlighted that delivering these housing services, as part of the broader plan to reach 50,000 housing units, represents a practical step toward reducing waiting periods, strengthening public confidence in government programs,



MP Ahmed Al-Salloum

and supporting comprehensive urban and economic development.

The lawmaker also praised

the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning for its effective role in implementing HRH Prince Salman's directives, stressing the legislative authority's support for all efforts aimed at meeting citizens' housing aspirations.

He said the timing of these government directives, coinciding with the Kingdom's national celebrations, underscores the leadership's commitment to prioritising the welfare of Bahrainis while ensuring efficient progress in the country's development agenda.